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SENATE MEMORIAL 2

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

William E. Sharer

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE TO MAINTAIN
OPERATION OF CURRENT NATURAL GAS AND OIL DRILLING ACTIVITIES IN
THE CARSON NATIONAL FOREST.

WHEREAS, the use of natural gas and oil has improved the
quality of life, raised the standard of living and increased
the life expectancy of New Mexicans; and

WHEREAS, eighty-three percent of New Mexicans utilize
natural gas or propane to heat their homes; and

WHEREAS, eighteen percent of New Mexico's electric power
supply is directly fueled by natural gas; and

WHEREAS, the Carson national forest and the United States
bureau of land management's big game management areas hold
significant oil and gas resources; and

WHEREAS, the deer and elk populations in New Mexico have

underscored material = new
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1 grown from nearly zero to more than ninety thousand head in the
2 past one hundred years; and

3 WHEREAS, some restrictions tied to the natural gas and oil
4 leases, such as steep slopes and surface occupancy
5 restrictions, already protect cultural resources and wildlife;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, responsible natural gas and oil development and
8 wildlife have coexisted for more than seventy years in the San
9 Juan basin; and

10 WHEREAS, responsible natural gas and oil development
11 during the normal winter closure period can balance extraction
12 and the needs of wildlife;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
14 OF NEW MEXICO that it request the United States forest service
15 to forgo the winter closure period and maintain operation of
16 current natural gas and oil drilling activities in the Carson
17 national forest; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the chief and deputy regional forester of the
20 southwest region of the United States forest service.

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